

A. Iu. Dvornichenko, E. A. Rostovtsev, D. A. Barinov

**THE DEPARTMENT OF RUSSIAN HISTORY AT
ST. PETERSBURG UNIVERSITY (1821–1917):
A GROUP PORTRAIT**

The Russian History department of the Imperial St. Petersburg University was an acknowledged centre of Russian historiography from the 19th to the beginning of 20th centuries. The main aim of this research is to define the characteristics of the collective biography of these Russian historians, on the basis of data which were prepared during the realization of a research project dedicated to the history of higher schools. Presented conclusions demonstrate that Russian history was one of the most progressive and competitive directions of scientific activity. In particular, historians of Russian history had more publications and higher academic status than other professors of the History and Philological faculties. Although historians of Russian history existed as a limited corporative group, their department received specialists from all over the country and at the same time sent historians to the provincial universities. The important fact to note is that historians of the department of history had first been formed as specialists in ancient history (before the reign of Peter I), but later, in the last decade of 19th century, the department opened up a new direction in Russian humanitarian science — Russian History of 18th and 19th Century. In contrast to other humanitarian researchers, professors of the Russian history department for the most part did not leave the country before 1917. But in the 1920s most of them were excluded from university for ideological reasons and were caught under the “Academic Case”. But at the same time loyalty to the profession, to the object of exploration and to the university as a whole ensured the continuity of the St. Petersburg history school in that dramatic period for the country and academia alike. Refs 20.

Keywords: Russian History department, St. Petersburg University, faculty of history and philology, prosopographic study, biography.

А. Ю. Дворниченко, Е. А. Ростовцев, Д. А. Баринов

**КАФЕДРА РУССКОЙ ИСТОРИИ ПЕТЕРБУРГСКОГО УНИВЕРСИТЕТА (1821–1917):
ОПЫТ КОЛЛЕКТИВНОГО ПОРТРЕТА***

Кафедра русской истории Императорского Санкт-Петербургского университета — признанный центр российской историографии XIX — начала XX в. Задача настоящей статьи — попытаться наметить черты коллективной биографии университетской школы русских историков на основании биографической базы данных, созданной в рамках ряда исследовательских проектов по истории высшей школы. Сделанные в статье наблюдения показывают, что

Dvornichenko Andrey Yurievich — Doctor of History, Professor, St. Petersburg State University, 7–9, Universitetskaya nab., St. Petersburg, 190034, Russian Federation; a.dvornichenko@spbu.ru

Rostovtsev Evgeniy Anatolievich — PhD, Associate Professor, St. Petersburg State University, 7–9, Universitetskaya nab., St. Petersburg, 190034, Russian Federation; e.rostovtsev@spbu.ru

Barinov Dmitrii Andreevich — PhD, Engineer-Researcher, St. Petersburg State University, 7–9, Universitetskaya nab., St. Petersburg, 190034, Russian Federation; d.barinov@spbu.ru

Дворниченко Андрей Юрьевич — доктор исторических наук, профессор, Санкт-Петербургский государственный университет, Российская Федерация, 190034, Санкт-Петербург, Университетская наб., 7–9; a.dvornichenko@spbu.ru

Ростовцев Евгений Анатольевич — кандидат исторических наук, доцент, Санкт-Петербургский государственный университет, Российская Федерация, 190034, Санкт-Петербург, Университетская наб., 7–9; e.rostovtsev@spbu.ru

Баринов Дмитрий Андреевич — кандидат исторических наук, инженер-исследователь, Санкт-Петербургский государственный университет, Российская Федерация, 190034, Санкт-Петербург, Университетская наб., 7–9; d.barinov@spbu.ru

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российская история была одним из приоритетных и конкурентных направлений научной деятельности университета. В частности, историки России выделялись большим количеством публикаций, большими академическими регалиями в сравнении с коллегами по историко-филологическому факультету. Несмотря на то, что историки России в столичном университете представляли сравнительно замкнутую корпоративную группу, кафедра достаточно широко привлекала сторонние кадры и в свою очередь готовила профессуру для провинциальных университетов. Важным для характеристики школы кафедры является и то обстоятельство, что, сформировавшись в рамках традиции изучения допетровской Руси, с последнего десятилетия XIX в. кафедра интенсивно осваивала новое для отечественной науки исследовательское поле — историю России XVIII–XIX вв. В отличие от представителей других сфер гуманитарного знания русские историки, за единичными исключениями, не покинули Россию после 1917 г., и в 1920-е годы по идеологическим причинам практически все оказались вытесненными из университета, а по большинству из них прошелся каток «Академического дела». В то же время верность профессии, предмету исследований и университету в драматичные для страны и науки годы обеспечили преемственность традиций исторического ремесла петербургской университетской школы историков России. Библиогр. 20 назв.

Ключевые слова: кафедра русской истории, Санкт-Петербургский университет, историко-филологический факультет, просопография, биография, высшая школа.

The department of Russian history, St. Petersburg Imperial University, is a renowned centre of Russian historiography at the turn of the 20th century. Together with an analogous department at Moscow University, before the Russian revolution it was the alma mater of experts in Russian history. Along with the Department of History of the Academy of Sciences, the university department of Russian history is also considered a cradle of the St. Petersburg school of history [Brachyov 2001; Rostovtsev 2004]. Not surprisingly, literature on the department's history is vast [Brachyov, Dvornichenko 2004; Daudov, Dvornichenko, Rostovtsev 2014] and the bibliography of works dedicated to its famous lecturers is enormous [History of St. Petersburg University in the 18th–21st centuries]. However, there has so far been no attempt as a group portrait of the department using the materials of prosopographic studies. The reason lies primarily in the fact that such attempts seem productive only when performed in the comparative historical perspective and based on a representative data set. It is only recent projects on the history of higher education and biographic studies of St. Petersburg University figures that, in our opinion, have created a basis for such research [Daudov, Dvornichenko 2013; Rostovtsev, Amosova, Yanchenko 2013; Rostovtsev, Barinov 2013]. The aim of this paper is to outline a collective biography of the university school of Russian historians using the biographies database created as a part of the mentioned projects [Setevoi Biograficheskii slovar' istorikov Sankt-Peterburgskogo universiteta XVIII–XX vv.; Setevoi Biograficheskii slovar' professorov i prepodavatelei Sankt-Peterburgskogo universiteta (1819–1917)].

Institutional Structure and Department Records

Having inherited the departmental structure from the Main Pedagogical Institute, the university had a department of history from the time of its foundation [Ustav Glavnogo Pedagogicheskogo instituta 1817, p.19–20], headed by a former professor of the Institute, E. P. Raupach, who, according to court records of the Russian Empire, was attached to the department of general history [Pedagogicheskogo instituta 1818, p. 529; Glavnyi Pedagogicheskii institut 1819, p. 512; Sankt-Peterburgskii universitet 1820, p. 499] and did not lecture on Russian history. Teaching Russian history as an independent subject dates

back to 1821 [Polnoe raspisanie trekhgodichnogo kursa nauk i prepodaiushchikh dlia vol'noslushaiushchikh studentov Sankt-Peterburgskogo universiteta 1919, p.28], when it was assigned to the adjunct (extraordinary professor since 1822) T.O.Rogov and the department of general history was renamed the department of universal and Russian history [Dokladnaia zapiska ekstraordinarnogo... p. 267]. After T.O.Rogov passed away in 1831, his course was taught by the former lecturer of the Russian language N. G. Ustryalov, who was officially appointed professor of Russian history on January 17, 1834 [Brachyov, Dvornichenko 2004, p. 10] According to the university Statute of 1835, the department was officially established and named the department of history of Russia, and in 1863–1917 — the department of Russian history.

Altogether, as Table 1 shows, during the period of 1821–1917, there worked 36 lecturers at the department, which accounted for 14% of staff at pre-revolutionary departments of history and philology and for about one third of the whole body of university Russianists (who, besides the department of Russian history, worked preeminently at the departments of Russian letters, history of Russian law, art history, church history). The department of Russian history ranked third at the faculty in the number of members (there were 36 of them, including T. O. Rogov, who had worked there before the department was established) after the departments of universal history (44 people) and Russian letters (43 people).

Table 1. Lecturers of Department of Russian History of St. Petersburg University (1821–1917)

Family name, first name, patronymic	Started work at the university	Took the office of assistance lecturer	Took the office of professor	Resigned	Period of Research
Rogov Trofim Osipovich (1788–1831)	1819, lecturer	1819, from 1821 adjunct	1822	1831	pre-17 th century
Ustryalov Nikolay Gerasimovich (1805–1870)	1830	1831, from 1830, lecturer in Russian language	1834	1859	pre-17 th century
Kostomarov Nikolay Ivanovich (1817–1885)	1859		1859	1862	pre-17 th century
Pavlov Platon Vasilyevich (1823–1895)	1861		1861	1862	pre-17 th century
Bestuzhev-Ryumin Konstantin Nikolaevich (1829–1897)	1865	1865	1868	1884	pre-16 th century
Zamyslovskii Egor Egorovich (1841–1896)	1871	1871	1884	1890	pre-17 th century
Semevskii Vasilii Ivanovich (1848–1916)	1882	1882		1886	18 th –19 th centuries*
Platonov Sergey Fedorovich (1860–1933)	1888	1888	1890	1929 (from 1927 in office of privat- docent)	pre-17 th century
Senigov Iosiph Petrovich (1859- after 1918)	1889	1889		1903	pre-17 th century

Family name, first name, patronymic	Started work at the university	Took the office of assistance lecturer	Took the office of professor	Resigned	Period of Research
<i>Shmurlo Evgeniy Frantsevich</i> (1853 [по н. ст. 1854]–1934)	1889	1889		1891	pre-18 th century
<i>Lappo-Danilevskii Alexander Sergeevich</i> (1863–1919)	1890	1890	1918	1919	pre-18 th century
<i>Chechulin Nikolay Dmitrievich</i> (1863–1927)	1891	1891		1913	16 th –18 th centuries
<i>Seredonin Sergey Mikhaylovich</i> (1860–1914)	1892	1892		1914	16 th –18 th centuries
<i>Kedrov Alexey Konstantinovich</i> (1859–1916)	1895	1895		1898	pre-17 th century
<i>Likhachyov Nikolay Petrovich</i> (1862–1936)	1895	1895–1903	1923–1926	1926	pre-17 th century
<i>Rozhdestvenskii Sergey Vasilyevich</i> (1868–1934)	1897	1897	1913	1929 (from 1927 in office of privat- docent)	16 th –19 th centuries
<i>Stroev Vasilii Nikolaevich</i> (1873–1931)	1902	1902	1918–1919, from 1920	1923	18 th –19 th centuries
<i>Lappo Ivan Ivanovich</i> (1869–1944)	1903	1903		1905	pre-17 th century
<i>Polievktov Mikhail Alexandrovich</i> (1872–1942)	1903	1903	1918	1920	18 th –19 th centuries
<i>Presnyakov Alexander Evgenyevich</i> (1870–1929)	1907	1907	1918	1929	pre-17 th century
<i>Priselkov Mikhail Dmitrievich</i> (1881–1941)	1907	1907	1919–1927, 1935–1941	1941	pre-16 th century
<i>Tarasov Efim Ivanovich</i> (1866–1928)	1907	1907		1917	19 th century
<i>Klochkov Mikhail Vasilyevich</i> (1877–1951)	1908	1908		1914	17 th –18 th centuries
<i>Spitsyn Alexander Andreevich</i> (1858–1931)	1909	1909	1918	1927	Russian archaeology
<i>Golovachyov Pyotr Mikhaylovich</i> (1861–1913)	1910	1910		1913	16 th –18 th centuries
<i>Grushevskii Alexander Sergeevich</i> (1877–1943)	1910	1910		1917	14 th –17 th centuries

Family name, first name, patronymic	Started work at the university	Took the office of assistance lecturer	Took the office of professor	Resigned	Period of Research
<i>Grekov Boris Dmitrievich</i> (1882–1953)	1910	1910–1916	1921	1937	pre-16 th century
<i>Vernadskiy Georgiy Vladimirovich</i> (1887–1973)	1913	1913		1917	18 th century
<i>Ostrovskaya Maria Alexeevna</i> (1884–1927(?))	1914	1914		1919	16 th –17 th centuries
<i>Butkevich Konstantin Fedorovich</i> (1884- after 1918)	1915	1915		1918	19th century
<i>Zaozerskii Alexander Ivanovich</i> (1874–1941)	1915	1915	1918	1923	17 th –18 th centuries
<i>Kun Vladimir Nikolaevich</i> (1886–1955)	1915	1915		1918	18 th century
<i>Lubomirov Pavel Grigoryevich</i> (1885–1935)	1915	1915		1917	17 th century
<i>Avaliani Simon Lukich</i> (1881–1922)	1916	1916		1918	19th century
<i>Veretennikov Vasilii Ivanovich</i> (1880–1942)	1916	1916		1917	18 th century
<i>Struve Pyotr Bogdanovich</i> (1870–1944)	1916	1916		1918	18th–19th centuries

* In bold are given the periods of Modern Russian History.

The “extreme digits” from the table provide curious details. The oldest by date of birth was T. O. Rogov (born 1788). The youngest among those who joined the department before the revolution was G. V. Vernadskii (born 1887), who worked at the university from 1913 to 1917. They were also the first and last to pass away: T. O. Rogov in 1831, G. V. Vernadskii in 1973. From the pre-revolutionary generation of Russianists M. D. Priselkov worked the longest — until 1941. In terms of generational history, the most “fruitful” year was 1860. Three of the department’s lecturers were born that year (P. M. Golovachyov, S. M. Seredonin, E. I. Tarasov), while I. P. Senigov and A. K. Kedrov were born a year earlier. The average lifespan of the faculty’s lecturers was relatively low, 62.8 years. It is less than the university’s average, 64.8. The average lifespan at the faculty of history and philology was up 65.2 years, 65.2 at the faculty of physics and mathematics, 64.1 at the faculty of law, 63.9 at the faculty of Oriental languages. S. L. Avaliani lived the shortest life of 41 years. Generally, the Russianists of their era could not boast of their longevity: only 10 people lived to 70 or older, with just two up to 80. G. V. Vernadskii (1887–1973) died the oldest at 85. Fairly speaking, this was not a very long life compared to the long-lived of the pre-revolutionary university: the philosopher N. O. Losskii and the jurist A. F. Meierdorf both lived to be 94, and the orientalist M. N. Ramming — 98.

Career and academic titles. Social background, ethnic and confessional composition

Our figures are based on the internal division into groups depending on the lecturer status according to the university statutes of 1804, 1835, 1863 and 1884; i. e. professors and the so-called assistance lecturers (teachers, lecturers, adjuncts, privat-docents, docents). Given all the differences of the university structure during various periods, the margin between these two groups was essential: the former were included in the faculty and university Councils and made decisions concerning various aspects of faculty life, while the latter did not have such competence. The number of professors being limited by the staff schedule, before 1917 each department was filled with no more than one or two professors. Therefore, becoming a professor was the turning point in an academic career; further promotion up the university ladder (e. g. receiving the rank of an ordinary professor, professor emeritus by the Statute of 1884) were of less importance, affecting only the salary.

Overall, the sharp growth in staff numbers at the department began around the turn of the 1890s [Rostovtsev, Barinov 2012, p. 41] with the increase in the number of assistant lecturers (Table 2).

Table 2. The dynamics of the academic staff number at the Department of Russian history (1821–1917)

Staff	Years																				
	1821	1825	1830	1835	1840	1845	1850	1855	1860	1865	1870	1875	1880	1885	1890	1895	1900	1905	1910	1915	1917
Assistance lecturers	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	4	6	5	6	12	14	17
Professors	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	2
Total	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	5	6	6	7	13	16	19

Altogether, 34 assistance lecturers (docents and privat-docents) worked at the department of Russian history in its various modifications, with 29 of them from 1888 to 1917, the last 30 years of the pre-revolutionary period. Before the adoption of the statute of 1884, there had been only seven. The average age at taking office was relatively low, 32.6 years. N. G. Ustoyalov was the youngest at 25, the oldest was A. A. Spitsyn at 51. The average age for the entire university was 33.5, the highest being at the faculty of history and philology: 36; equally low at the faculty of law and faculty of physics and mathematics: 33.1, and at the faculty of Oriental languages it corresponded to the average: 33.5. Among privat-docents and lecturers only 17 (50 %) took office without defending their master's thesis (13 were masters, 3 doctors). To compare, at the faculty of history and philology the percentage of those who took office as a assistance lecturer without a thesis (master's or doctor's) made up 56.7 %, 81.5 % at the faculty of Oriental languages, 29.8 at the faculty of physics and mathematics, 56.1 % at the faculty of law, with 51.5 % throughout the university. The situation was somewhat different with defending doctor's theses by professors: those who took professorship at the faculty of Russian history without a doctor's degree before 1917 made 37.5 %, with 35.7 % at the faculty of history and philology, 21.7 % at the faculty of physics and mathematics, 55.8 % at the faculty of Oriental languages, 41.8 % at the faculty of law, and 36.1 % throughout the university.

Throughout the department's history before 1917, there worked eight professors (not including the eight people who took office after 1917). From among them, six people first worked as assistance lecturers; only N. I. Kostomarov in 1859 and P. V. Pavlov in 1861 took office as professors from the very start. The average term of teaching before obtaining professorship was 6.8 years (11.7 if we include those who became professors after 1917); i. e. shorter than at any other department. S. F. Platonov (2 years), T. O. Rogov and K. N. Bestuzhev-Ryumin (3 years) were the quickest to take this course, S. V. Rozhdestvenskii was the slowest (16 years). A. S. Lappo-Danilevskii became professor after 28 years of privat-docenture, but in a later period, in 1918. It also took N. P. Likhachev 28 years from the beginning of his work at the university, in which, however, there was a considerable gap between 1903 and 1923. The average age at attaining professorship at the department of Russian history was 37.8, which was slightly lower than the university average of 38.7. The youngest professor was S. F. Platonov at 30, the oldest was his student S. V. Rozhdestvenskii at 45 and in the Soviet era with A. A. Spitsyn at 60. At the faculty of history and philology, the average term of professorship equaled 39 years, while the average term of work prior to professorship was 7.2 years. The same figures for the faculty of law were 38.7 and 8.4, the faculty of physics and mathematics — 38.6 and 8, the faculty of Oriental languages: 38.4 and 8.6. All the above figures are for the period up to 1917.

As for master's theses, we dispose of 25 cases. The average age at defending one's master's thesis was 31.7. N. I. Kostomarov was the youngest, while P. B. Struve and A. I. Zaozerskii were the oldest, at 43 and 41 respectively. At the faculty of history and philology the same figure was 30.5, at the faculty of law: 31.6, at the faculty of physics and mathematics: 31.6, at the faculty of Oriental languages: 29.6, the university average being 31.3.

Doctoral theses were defended by 13 people (including two after 1917) making up 36.1 % of the department's lecturers. It is not a high percentage, although it is higher than the faculty average. The university average reached 41.4 %, with 35.3 % at the faculty of history and philology, 55.1 % at the faculty of physics and mathematics, 43.1 % at the faculty of law, 21.7 % at the faculty of Oriental languages. The average age of Russian historians at defending was 36.4, while at the faculty of history and philology it was 37, at the faculty of law: 36.5, at the faculty of physics and mathematics: 35.4, at the faculty of Oriental languages: 37.6. The youngest doctors at the department were P. V. Pavlov (becoming doctor at 26) and N. P. Likhachev (at 30), while M. D. Priselkov at 58, in 1939, was the oldest. There were eight of those who first defended a master's and then doctoral degrees. The average term between the two defences made 8.4 years department. Elsewhere at the university it was slightly shorter: at the faculty of history and philology it was 7.9, at the faculty of law: 6.4, at the faculty of physics and mathematics: 5.9, at the faculty of Oriental languages: 6.3, the university average being 6.6 years.

On average, a Russianist worked at the University for 11.7 years, which is the shortest term of all departments. For example, lecturers at the faculty of physics and mathematics worked 14.7 years on the average, at the faculty of history and philology: 13.5, at the faculty of Oriental languages: 15.1, at the faculty of law: 12.7, the university average being 14 years. The department had its own long livers. S. F. Platonov worked the longest of all, for 41 years (1888–1929), then comes S. V. Rozhdestvenskii with 32 years, N. G. Ustryalov and A. S. Lappo-Danilevskii, with 29 years, each rank third. Privat-docents often did not stay long in their positions as they acquired professorship at provincial institutions. Thus,

E. F. Shmurlo and I. I. Lappo headed a department at Iur'evskii University, P. G. Lyubomirov — in Tomsk, G. V. Vernadskii — in Perm.

The religious composition of the department before the Revolution was entirely orthodox, which certainly stood out against the pre-revolutionary academic corporation of the university (with 81.9 % of staff being orthodox believers as of 1914) as well as the faculty of history and philology (more than 20 % of lecturers were of other confessions as of 1914). The social background of most lecturers was upper and middle class: 64 % came from the families of nobility, gentry or government officials. To compare: at the faculty of physics and mathematics, supposedly the most aristocratic, these strangely made only 55 %, at the faculty of history and philology — 47 %, at the faculty of law — 45 %, at the faculty of Oriental languages — 16 %, 51 % being the university average.

Publishing, teaching, and academic interests

The electronic catalogue of the RNL allows to follow the publishing activity of the department's lecturers and their academic interests [Electronic Catalogue]. The average number of monograph publications by the Russian historians made: 33.7 per lifetime, 13.8 per teaching period before 1917, and 1.5 per year before 1917. The faculty of history and philology was the leader: 31.6, 12.4 and 1.4 editions respectively; then follow the faculty of physics and mathematics: 25.6, 12.5 and 1.4, the faculty of law: 22, 9.4, and 0.8; the faculty of Oriental languages had the lowest publishing activity with 15.5, 7.9, and 0.6. Thus, an average university lecturer published 23.7 books in his lifetime, 10.5 books while teaching, and one book per year. The statistics demonstrates that the publishing activity of the department was quite high. S. F. Platonov published the largest number of works while at the university as well as during his lifetime — 116 and 121 respectively; he is followed by A. S. Lappo-Danilevskii with 59 publications during his work at the university (the total number being 62 books). N. P. Likhachev with more than a hundred books (106) holds the per year record of 6.1. Of course, there is an explanation for such impressive numbers, which lies in the publishing practice of the turn of the 20th century, when many papers published in collections and periodicals were also issued as separate reprints, with their own pagination and output data. Repeated reprinting of lecture courses also took place.

As for the number of courses by Russian historians, at the department the average figure before 1917 was 5.8 courses per lecturer per teaching period. The leader was the faculty of history and philology with 6.7, the faculty of physics and mathematics ranked second with 4.9, the faculty of law was third with 3.6, and the lowest was the figure for the faculty of Oriental languages, only 2.8. The average number of new courses per lecturer per year did not vary much, being 0.3 for the faculties of law and of physics and mathematics, 0.2 for the faculties of history and philology and of Oriental languages, 0.3 for the entire university, and 0.1 for the department of Russian history. The leaders in diversity were A. S. Lappo-Danilevskii (28 courses) and S. V. Rozhdestvenskii (25 courses).

Table 1 clearly shows how the chronological framework of academic research was becoming broader with time. While the lecturers who began their career before the 1880s focused on studying the history before Peter I (V. I. Semevskii was the only exception), the majority of privat-docents from 1890 onwards took more interest in the history of modern Russia — the 18th and 19th centuries.

Academic Mobility

It is quite interesting to have a look at the education background of pre-revolutionary historians. Twenty-three lecturers (including a graduate of the Main Pedagogical University, the University's predecessor); i. e. 63.9 %, were alumni of St. Petersburg University, which exceeded the university (58.2 %) and the faculty average (62.7 %). To compare: for the faculty of physics and mathematics the figure was 62.2 %, 46 % for the faculty of Oriental studies and 54.3 % for the faculty of law. Moscow University ranked second with six of its graduates working at the department of Russian history. So it can be concluded that the department was the cradle of the St. Petersburg school of history, which did not deny access to graduates of other universities and, above all, representatives of its main academic opponent, the Moscow historical school.

Of 36 members, seven (36.1 %) held a position at the Academy of Sciences before 1917: K. N. Bestuzhev-Ryumin, A. S. Lappo-Danilevskii, N. G. Ustryalov, P. B. Struve; after 1917: S. F. Platonov, N. P. Likachev, B. D. Grekov, were full academicians of the RAS and the AS of the USSR; six were corresponding members (E. E. Zamyslovskii, N. I. Kostomarov, A. E. Presnyakov, S. V. Rozhdestvenskii, A. A. Spitsyn, E. F. Shmurlo). It is one of the highest figures for the university. At the faculty of history and philology such staff made up only 16.5 %, at the faculty of physics and mathematics: 18.8 %, at the faculty of law: 4 %, at the faculty of Oriental languages: 22.9 %. Also, nearly all the department's lecturers had the chance to work at other academic centres at some time in their career. Among them were the Higher Women's Courses (Bestuzhev's), where nine of the department's lecturers taught. Two worked at the Institute of History and Philology, two at the Ministry of People's Enlightenment, two at the SAIMC, and two at Moscow University. However, this situation was typical, while the second most popular employer for the staff of the faculty of history and philology was the "women's university"; i. e., Bestuzhev's Courses.

The post-revolutionary fate of the lecturers who began teaching before 1917 is also noteworthy. Fifteen out of nineteen lecturers of the 1915/1916 academic year remained at the university after 1917, after 1918 there were eleven. Three of them (G. V. Vernadskii, V. N. Stroev, P. B. Struve) later emigrated, the fate of two after 1918 is unknown. These figures are rather low for the university where 79 of 292 lecturers of the 1915/1916 academic year, i. e. 27 %, emigrated [Rostovtsev, Barinov 2014, p.598]. Only B. D. Grekov, who returned to the university in 1921, had the luck to work at the university and the LHLI and the LHPHLLI, formed on its basis, until the new "department of history" was created in 1934. Other pre-revolutionary lecturers were forced out of the university, "the Academic case" affected S. F. Platonov, N. P. Likhachev, S. V. Rozhdestvenskii, M. D. Priselkov, who worked at the university again after concentration camp detention and banishment, and A. I. Zaozerskii [Academic Case 1929–1931, 1993, pp. v–vii] who did not make it back to the university. However, it is their collective work at the department in the 1920s, together with historians of the new generation (B. A. Romanov, S. N. Valk, M. N. Martynov, S. V. Voznesenskii, V. N. Kashin, etc.), that guaranteed that the academic tradition of Petersburg/Leningrad school remain unbroken.

Our data suggests some preliminary conclusions about the department's role at the University and at the faculty of history and philology before the Revolution. First of all,

Russian history was one of the academic priorities of the department. This is reflected not only in the number of lecturers but also in the character of their university career. Despite a generally early start among Russianists, their work required considerable effort. Russian historians stood out socially and academically with their abundant publications, degrees, titles and the like in comparison to their fellows at the faculty and at the university. Russian history was one of the most competitive scholarly fields, and although historians of Russia represented a relatively secluded corporate group. Statistical data reveal that the department not only employed specialists from the rival Moscow University but also provided experts for provincial universities and thus broadened its influence in Russian historiography. Of course, such migrations were encouraged by the sharp growth in the number of privat-docents at St. Petersburg University in the late 19th century, which brought considerable changes to the department of Russian history. An important feature is that the department took shape studying Russia before Peter I, but the last decade of the 19th century saw increasing research a new field — the history of Russia in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Unlike other scholars of the humanities, Russian historians, regardless of their privileged social background did not leave the country after 1917, with some singular exceptions. They were almost entirely forced out of the university in the 1920s for ideological reasons and many were subjected to repressions by “the Academic Case”. At the same time, their dedication to profession and to the university during the dreadful years for the country and the science made sure that the historical research tradition in St. Petersburg did not break off.

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